UNDP

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

IPF: (1989-91) $10 000 000

(IRA/89/014) - Caspian Model Forest Management Plan

Date of approval:	10 November 1990
Expected duration:	Five years
Proposed executing agency:	FAO
Government implementing agency:	Forest and Range Organization
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$300 000 Source of funds: IPF
Government cost sharing:	$390 400
Total UNDP budget:	$690 400

Project background

The forest resources in the Caspian areas are diminishing at an alarmingly high rate. From an area of 3.4 million hectares approximately 30 years ago the forest has now shrunk to only 1.9 million hectares. Population explosion, rapid urbanisation, industrialization and growth of rarming and animal husbandry are amongst the major causes of this highly unsatisfactory state of affairs. The Government is also well aware of the complexity of the task ahead and is conscious of the multi-mimensional nature of forestry management. As such, it has sought UNDP/FAP assistance to benefit from extensive experience in this field, and to design the present project which will be used, if successful, as a model in the region for management of forests.

Description of project

The project will prepare a well designed Forest Management Plan based on currently practised planning techniques and silvicultural practice. The plan will incorporate the socio-economic realities of the people that are either resident within, or migratory through the forest area. The objective of the

socio-economic aspects of the project is to devise alternative employment for these people in an effort to induce them away from forest based subsistence agriculture and animal husbandry. This will shift the degradation pressures on the forest. Planning is to be followed by the careful implementation of this plan in order to make it a "model" of development that can be used to solicit Government, Religious and popular support for the conservation and sustained utilization of the Caspian Forests for the benefit of Iran. Technical support will be provided for in the planning and implementation phases.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 38 work-months of consultancies in planning, silviculture, harvesting, watershed management, field operation, logging and nursery management; 12 work-weeks of training in silviculture; equipment to be used in the nursery; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	470 400
Training	25 000
Equipment	85 000
Miscellaneous	10 000
Total	690 400

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